

**TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK**

**Municipal Building**

**Teaneck, New Jersey 07666**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PRESS RELEASE

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## **TEANECK TO CREATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

TEANECK, NJ – The pending retirement of the Township's police and fire chief will create a unique opportunity for the Township Council to restructure the administration of the community's police and fire services. This move is expected to yield greater effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of both emergency services through a combined Department of Public Safety.

The Council will combine the administration of both departments under a Director of Public Safety, which is being offered to retiring Police Chief Robert A. Wilson. Wilson will be paid \$110,000 annually, a reduction from his \$165,000 current salary.

Reporting to Wilson will be a Deputy Police Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. Each of these professionals will manage the day-to-day operations of their respective department.

The new structure is expected to save the community more than \$250,000 in annual salary and benefit payments because it would not name a new police or fire chief, positions being vacated due to retirements.

The Township has always enjoyed one of the region's most distinguished police and fire departments. However, these retirements represented a unique window of opportunity for the Council to examine achieving greater administrative effectiveness and efficiency for the police and fire departments.

A critical factor in this restructuring is that the chiefs' positions being eliminated are administrative. Day to day police and fire operations will not be affected. The Township will keep the same number of police officers and fire fighters on the street to provide our residents with the same high level of service and responsiveness they have come to expect from Teaneck's finest and bravest.

Under the Council's plan, Wilson will first serve as Deputy Township Manager for the next six months, which will keep him employed by the community and satisfy a State requirement barring him from directly overseeing the police department for that period of time. After this period, he will move into the Public Safety Director's role.

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